

R. 2. Brit. Ireland, James I. 1603.
By the King.

A Proclamation concerning Leases and Assents.



His most Excellent Maiestie calling to his remembrance, that the Imperiall Crowne of this Realme hath euer beene enriched with Honors, Pallaces, Castles, Lordships, Manors, Forests, Parkes, Chales, Lands, Tenements, Reuenues and Hereditaments, of a greater yeerely value, then any King or Prince in EUROPE, And not finding any of them to haue beene by any of his Progenitors (Kings and Queenes of this Realme) so indiuidually annexed to the said Imperiall Crowne, but that the same hath beene seuered or diuided: And where it hath pleased Almighty God of his infinite and vnspeakable mercy towards this Realme, both in present, and to all future posterities, not only to blesse and enrich his Maestie with such a plentifull and Royal Progenie, aboue the most of the Kings of the World, as his louing Subiects and their posterities shall, by Gods prouidence, for euer be freed from all former feares, and liue in all happinesse and safetie, vnder the certaine and blessed gouernment of his Maestie, and his Royall Issue, vntill all the Kingdomes of the earth shall haue an end, but also with such Issues, as God hath endued with so many rare and excellent vertues and gifts both of body and mind, the multiplication of which his Royall Posteritie (to our further comfort) remaineth in Gods secret pleasure: His Maestie intending to begin and leaue an example both to his owne and others, of his Royall and naturall care, as well for the certeine suppoztation and amplitude of his Royall Successors, Kings of this Realme, and for honourable Ioinctures to be made to the Queenes of this Realme for the time being, as also for competent sustentation and aduancement of the Kings yonger children, in honourable and prosperous estate, as appertaineth; Hath (out of his Princely Wisedome and prouidence, by aduice of his Princiue Councell) resolved to haue all those Honors, Pallaces, Castles, Lordships, Manors, Forests, Parkes, Chales, Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments, parcell of the possessions of his Maesties Crowne of England, and of the Dutchie of Lancaster, as are set dolbne and expresse in fourteene Schedules, to be indiuidually and inseparably, for the purposes and intents abouesaid, at the next Session of Parliament, by Authoritie and consent of the same, vnted and annexed for euer hereafter to the Imperiall Crowne of this Realme. His most Excellent Maestie vnderstanding, that the greatest part of the Premisses be in Lease for Liues or Yeeres in possession, and most of them in Reuerfion for terme of yeeres, All which be subiect not onely to strict conditions, but also to diuers other questions and ambiguities, which cannot so perfectly and effectually be salued and remedied after the said Annexation, as they may now be, and in his Princely care and fauour to his louing Subiects tendring their quiet, without seeking such aduantages, as his Maestie might by the Lawes of this Realme, by reason of the said Conditions, and other defects: And to the end there may be a meane, whereby his Highnesse said Subiects may with lesse charge and attendance attaine to a conuenient Composition in such cases; Hath by his Highnesse Commission vnder the great Seale of England, giuen ful power and Authoritie vnto certaine Commissioners in the said Commission mentioned, from time to time to giue and take order, aswell for the Surrender of any Estate, Lease, or terme for yeeres, life or Liues, mentioned to be demised by any Letters Patents, Indentures, or Writings, of any of the aforesaid premisses or any part thereof, as thereupon, for such reasonable and moderate confide-

ration as shall be thought fit by the said Commissioners to Graunt, Demise, and let to Farme to euery such person or persons so surrendring the Estate, Terme, or Interest, claimed by them as aforesaid, or to such persons as they shall nominate in that behalfe, such, and so many of the Premises, as shalbe so mentioned to be surrendred, for the terme of Fourtie yeeres or vnder in possession (other then Parsh or surrounded Grounds, and certaine other Hereditaments, which may be Demised for a longer Terme, as hath bene heretofore accustomed) or for terme of sixe Lives or vnder, or for such terme of Yeeres, Life, or Lives, as shall be by any person or persons mentioned to be Surrendred. And further to Grant, Demise, and let to Farme to any person or persons in Reuerfion for reasonable Consideration, for the Terme of one and twentie yeeres, or for such number of yeeres in Reuerfion as shall be so mentioned to be Surrendred as is aforesaid, any of the foresaid premises now in Lease, or Estate to any person or persons, to comence and take effect after the Determination, Surrender, or Forfeiture of the present Interest, Terme, or Estate.

And his Maiestie hath further for the great quiet and safety of his louing Subiects, (Whom it doeth concerne) authorized the said Commissioners to containe in euery Lease by force of the said Commission to be made, such penalties of *Nomine pœnæ* or other reasonable clauses (in steed of the strict Prouisoies and Conditions) as the saide Commissioners shall in their wisdomes and discretions thinke fit, as by the said Commission more at large appeareth. And whereas his most excellent Maiestie, being informed that many of his louing Subiects, and their Ancestors, haue for very small Rent of long and auncient time bene in quiet possession of diuers Mesuages, Lands, Tenements, & Hereditaments called Asserts, Waits, or Depastures, which are, or were within the Limits of some of his Maiesties Forrests, hath for the common good and quiet of all his louing Subiects, and for auoyding of chargeable and tedious Suits, by one other Commission vnder the great Seale of England, giuen full power and authority vnto certaine Commissioners in the said Commission mentioned, for such considerations as are therein expressed, to bargain, sell and conclude for his Maiestie, and in his Highnesse name, for any of the sayd Assert lands, Waits or Depastures, to and with any person or persons, and their heires in Fee-farme, or other estate of Inheritance, with a discharge of the meane profits thereof, as by the saide Commission more at large also appeareth. In consideration whereof, and for that the time being runne out, & the saide Annexion once established, the said Farmers, Leastees, Occupiers, Possessours, and others clayming vnder them, cannot obtaine to themselves so certaine and assured meanes of their benefit, quiet and freedome from Questions, Suits, and troubles, for the comfort of themselves, their wiues and children, as they now may: His most excellent Maiestie hath of his abundant grace (with aduise of his Prīue Councell) caused this his Royall and Princely care and fauour to all his louing Subiects, to bee by these presents openly and vniuersally diuulged and published, to the end that all of them (Whom it concerneth) may in time apprehend, and take the benefit thereof, and none of them may be preuented of so great a benefit, for Want of timely knowledge or vnderstanding.

Giuen at our Pallace of Westminster the xvij. day of February, in the second yeere of our Reigne of *Great Britaine, France and Ireland.*

God saue the King.

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Printer to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.

ANNO DOM. 1604.